



## Astronomy Club of Asheville

# March 2024 Highlight

## The Vernal Equinox – March 19<sup>th</sup>

- ★ On **Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**, at 11:07 p.m. EDT, the Sun begins its journey north of the celestial equator, bringing spring to the northern hemisphere and autumn to the southern hemisphere. This event is called the “**vernal**” equinox in the northern hemisphere, when many plants are beginning to “**green**”. This year’s first full day of spring is March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- ★ On this day, all places on Earth experience nearly equal amounts of daylight and darkness – about 12 hours of each. “**Equinox**” literally means “**equal night**”.
- ★ For all places on Earth at the equinox, the Sun rises due east and sets due west.



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Montage of Summer Solstice, Equinox and Winter Solstice sunrises from a small Greek town showing the seasonal motion of the Sun.



**Note: only on the Equinoxes does the Sun rise due East and set due West!**